United Nations S/AC.44/2013/18

Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Letter dated 17 June 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

I have the honour to write to you with regard to your note S/AC.44/2013/OC.5 of February 2013.

In that note, on behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), you thanked Paraguay for providing information on its implementation of the aforementioned resolution and requested my country's Government to provide updated information pursuant to paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1977 (2011), which extended the Committee's mandate until April 2021.

In that connection, the competent authorities of Paraguay report that although there are no clarifications or modifications of the information provided in 2006, they would like to transmit to the Committee additional information on new measures taken by the Government pursuant to Decree No. 20997 of April 2003, which established the National Commission for the Prevention of and Response to Biological Emergencies (CONAPREB) (see annex).

This institution comprises high-level Government officials who specialize in linking and coordinating the capacities and efforts of its member bodies; its primary goal is to prevent and respond effectively to biological, chemical and radiation emergencies by cooperating to ensure the safety of people and the environment.

(*Signed*) José Antonio **Dos Santos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 June 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Asunción, 13 June 2012

DIGAI No. 31/2013

The Department of International Affairs in the Ministry of Defence presents its compliments to the Department of Special Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and acknowledges receipt of note VMRE/DGAE/No. 189/13 of 19 March 2013, summarizing note No. S/AC.44/2013/OC.5 of 27 February 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), in which the Committee thanked Paraguay for providing information on its implementation of the aforementioned resolution and requested the Government to provide updated information pursuant to paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1977 (2011), which extended the Committee's mandate until April 2021.

The last time that our country submitted documents was in 2006, when it provided additional information from the Government in connection with the initial report, submitted in November 2004.

This Department reports that there are no clarifications or modifications of the information provided.

In that connection, it transmits herewith additional information (see enclosure) on new measures taken by the Government by establishing, through Executive Decree No. 20997 of April 2003, the National Commission for the Prevention of and Response to Biological Emergencies (CONAPREB). The Commission comprises high-level Government officials who specialize in linking and coordinating the capacities and efforts of the non-governmental institutions and organizations that are its members; its primary goal is to prevent and respond effectively to biological, chemical and radiation emergencies by cooperating to ensure the safety of people and the environment.

I would appreciate if you would transmit the attached information.

The Department of International Affairs in the Ministry of Defence takes this opportunity to convey to the Department of Special Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

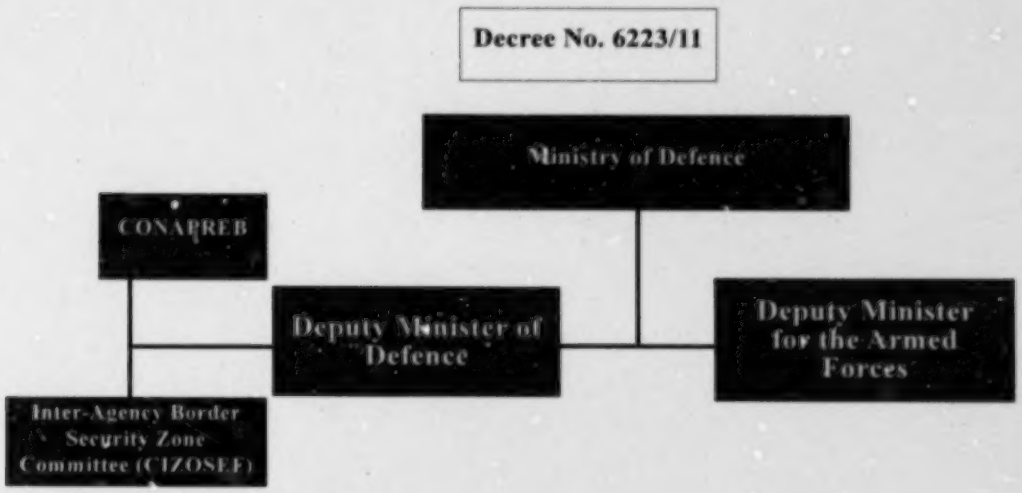
(*Signed*) Cesar Regino **Ovelar Martínez**

Enclosure

Legal and institutional framework

The National Commission for the Prevention of and Response to Biological Emergencies (CONAPREB) was established by Executive Decree No. 20997 of 2003.

CONAPREB comprises high-level governmental and non-governmental officials who specialize in coordinating and linking the capacities and efforts of its member institutions and organizations in order to prevent and respond effectively to biological, chemical and radiation emergencies by cooperating to ensure the safety of people and the environment.



Executive Decree No. 20997/2003

CONAPREB was established in order to:

- Prevent and respond in an adequate and timely manner to emergencies caused by biological, chemical or radioactive agents or other weapons of mass destruction, whether accidentally or as a result of a terrorist attack, thereby enhancing the safety of people and the environment;
- Assist the high-level Government authorities with respect to security policies, programmes, plans and criteria to be implemented.

Member institutions (22 in all):

Ministries:

1. The Ministry of Defence
2. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare
3. The Ministry of the Interior
4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

5. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
6. The Ministry of Public Works and Communication
7. The Ministry of Education and Culture
8. The National Armed Forces
9. The National Police
10. The Social Security Institute
11. The Paraguayan Volunteer Fire Brigade
12. The Paraguayan National Association of Volunteer Fire Brigades
13. The National Electricity Administration
14. The Paraguayan Communications Company
15. The Paraguayan Health Care Company

Secretariats:

16. The National Anti-Drug Secretariat
17. The Environment Secretariat
18. The National University of Asunción (UNA)

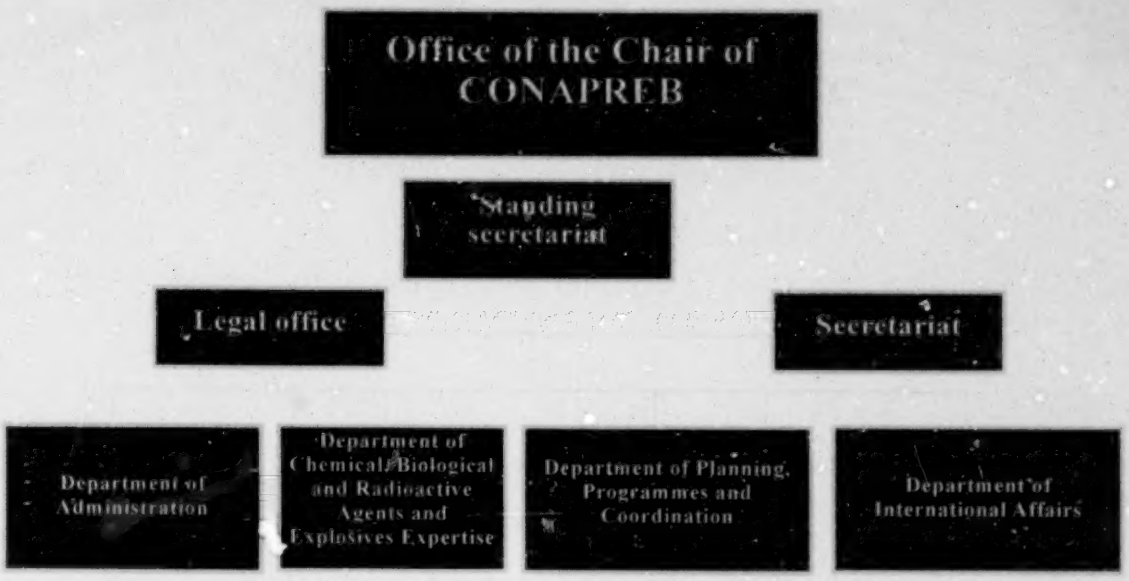
National Commissions:

19. The Telecommunications Commission
20. The Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA-UNA)
21. The Health Research Institute
22. The National Institute of Technology, Standardization and Metrology

CONAPREB will recommend the establishment of biological emergency prevention and response committees in governmental and non-governmental institutions, private entities and other social sectors.

CONAPREB will oversee and conduct a review of the National Prevention and Response Programme and contingency plan for each sector.

CONAPREB organization chart


Office of the Chair of CONAPREB
Standing secretariat
Legal office
Secretariat
Department of Administration
Department of Chemical, Biological and Radioactive Agents and Explosives Expertise
Department of Planning, Programmes and Coordination
Department of International Affairs

Institutional priority:

- To publicize the mission, organizational system, standards and prevention programmes of CONAPREB throughout the national territory, including to armed forces units, the police, departmental and municipal authorities, hospitals, voluntary fire brigades, etc.;
- To establish a national database and survey the capacities and limitations of the governmental and non-governmental institutions in each of the State's departments; and
- To map the risks and threats affecting the transport, storage, acquisition and transfer of hazardous toxic materials and the hospital facilities that handle radioactive materials.

Short-, medium- and long-term policy

- To acquire equipment with a view to the establishment of an emergency operations command (COE) and to establish and equip a CONAPREB mobile operations command;
- To train the staff of response institutions that might be involved in small, medium- and large-scale chemical, biological and radiation emergencies; and
- To prepare training programmes offering theoretical and practical courses through basic, advanced and specialized modules, including courses on the handling of hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological) with a focus on first-response staff and the staff of departmental and municipal governments, regional hospitals, military units, departmental police headquarters and volunteer fire brigades.

- In the city of Asunción, 80 people received training in 2010.
- In 2011, visits to cities in the departments of Pilar and Alto Paraná and to the town of Mariscal Estigarribia were conducted; a total of 138 people received training.
- In 2012, the cities of Encarnación, Concepción and Filadelfia were visited; a total of 124 people received training.

International relations

– Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

2011 — Military Forces Command

- Basic course on combating chemical weapons
- Advanced course on combating chemical weapons
- Gift of equipment valued at 40,000 euros

2012 — Article X international courses

- Regional advanced course, Buenos Aires, Argentina — Sop Mam Roberto Valdez
- Czech advanced course, Czech Republic — Artillery Captain Christian Centurión
- Basic course on nuclear, biological and chemical materials, Spiez, Switzerland — Christian Monges, technician
- Regional course for escorts and inspectors, Santiago de Chile — Navy Colonel Antonio Orue
- Regular basic course, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — Tte. Avc. Rocío Duarte

– International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

2011 — National University of Asunción — National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA)

- July — Basic course for first responders to radiation emergencies — Navy Colonel Antonio Orue, Navy Colonel Marion Rodríguez, Sop Transp. Eligio Castro, Sop Mam Roberto Valdez, FP Christian Monges, Omar Campos, Luis Figueredo and Mercedes Talavera
- May — Training course on the application of security standards and a guide to national capacity-building for emergency response to nuclear and radiation emergencies — FP Omar Campos, Luis Figueredo and Mercedes Talavera
- July — Workshop to review and update the Paraguayan National Response Plan for Radiation Emergencies, based on the previous version of the Plan — FP Christian Monges, Mercedes Talavera

– **Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)**

– **Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) working group on terrorism (illicit trafficking in nuclear material)**

– **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

– **Conventions**:

Rotterdam

Stockholm

Basel

As a first step, the Ministry of Defence, through CONAPREB, has invested in equipment acquisition over the past three years. We are also gathering data from every institution in the Republic and are planning to prepare communication, warning and other protocols.

Ministry of Defence equipment

Item	*Description*	*Quantity*
1	Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment for navigation	1
2	3M Jupiter two-speed air purifiers	2
3	3M full-face mask	50
4	Separate kit with two replacement cylinders	2
5	MSA Altair 5 multi-gas detector kit	1
6	Meteorological kit	1
7	60 RAD dosimeter	6
8	Biological hazard protective suit, white	500
9	Blue corrosive gas and liquid protective gloves	500
10	Steel-tipped Hazproof harsh chemical protective boots	30
11	N95 half-mask respirator	1 000
12	Separate kit with full harness and two cylinders	2
13	400 pairs of neoprene gloves	33
14	Du Pont type-F inorganic and organic liquid protective suit (resistant to chemical and biological attacks)	39
15	TK level-A encapsulated suit with valves	4

Automated vehicle location (AVL) software — Global Positioning System (GPS) communication control

Emergency operations centre

Portable radio		**4**
Motorola MOTO TRBO DGP 4150 portable radio without a display, 32 channels	1	
IP Site Connect	1	
Mobile radio		**2**
Motorola MOTO TRBo DGM 4100+, GPS, 136-174MHZ 25W with numeric display	1	
IP Site Connect	1	
Maxrad magnetic antenna with 5/8 wavelength	1	
Independent GPS antenna (perforable)	1	
VHF radio with antenna and GPS mobile phone antenna	1	
Base radio		**1**
Motorola MOTO TRBo DGM 4100, 136-174MHZ 25W with numeric display	1	
IP Site Connect	1	
Two-ring VHF antenna	1	
Power source	1	
Metres of RG213C coaxial cable	40	
RG213C type-N female coaxial connector	1	
RG213C type-N male coaxial connector	1	
Lightning arrestor	1	
Jumper lightning arrestor-repeater cable (N male-N male RG213C 5 metres)	1	
Barrilito MINI UHF-N female (repeater-jumper) adapter	1	
Hanger kit	1	
Weatherproofing tape kit for antenna connecter	1	

OPCW gifts to the Republic of Paraguay

Data provided by the CONAPREB Technical Department of Chemical, Biological and Radioactive Explosives by technical staff member Christian Monges

Quantity	*Unit*	*Description*
40	Units	Air-permeable protective suit
3	Units	Training monitor with accessories
54	Units	"Military" tear gas
1	Unit	"Military" agent detection kit for training
4	Units	"Military" agent detection kit
9	Units	Commercial detection kit with tubes, pump with hose
40	Units	"Military" protective mask
40	Units	Water bottles for "military" protective masks
45	Units	Reusable bottles

Quantity	*Unit*	*Description*
40	Units	Protective gloves
20	Units	Waterproof suits
20	Units	Protective gloves
3	Units	Auto-injectors for training
1	Unit	Duct tape
1	Unit	Warning or caution tape
1	Unit	Scissors
1	Unit	LR4 CBRN air-permeable protective suit
1	Unit	"Military" chemical weapons agent detection kit
2	Units	Chemical weapons agent detection kit
2	Units	"Military" protective mask
2	Units	Industrial chemical protective mask
4	Units	Filter for chemical protective masks
2	Pairs	Paul Boye protective boot covers
1	Pair	Paul Boye protective gloves
2	Pairs	Rubber protective gloves
2	Pairs	Boot covers
2	Units	Paul Boye air-permeable protective suit